

Public Notice – Environmental Project

PURPOSE OF NOTICE:

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed project in Virginia coastal waters.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

July 31, 2009 to August 27, 2009

TYPE OF RESPONSE:

Federal Consistency Determination

DEQ is reviewing a proposed federal fisheries management action to determine if it is consistent with the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The act seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT :

DOC/NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to amend the 2006 Consolidated Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) based on several stock assessments that were completed in 2007 and 2008. Furthermore, NMFS proposes to add smooth dogfish under the HMS management and implementing management measures. The amendment proposes to establish a permit requirement for commercial and recreational retention of smooth dogfish in federal waters, and establish a commercial quota. In addition, the preferred management measures in the proposed rule would implement quotas and retention limits necessary to rebuild and stop overfishing of blacknose sharks through recreational and commercial restrictions on retention and commercial gear. Measures would also be taken with international fisheries organizations to end overfishing of shortfin mako sharks and promote their live release in the domestic commercial and recreational fisheries.

HOW TO COMMENT:

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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